

**REMARKS****Amendments to the specification**

Applicants have amended the specification to incorporate into the relevant location of the specification material that was originally incorporated by reference. According to MPEP 2163.07(b), information that is "incorporated by reference" is as much a part of the application as filed as if the text was repeated in the application, and should be treated as part of the text of the application as filed. Adding material that was incorporated by reference into the actual text is not new matter.

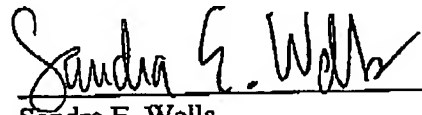
Applicants have added by way of amendment to the specification at the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 3, a description of a method of blocking amplification of undesirable nucleic acid sequences as described in U.S. Patent No. 6,391,592. The amendment is supported throughout the disclosure of the '592 patent, for example, by the description at column 6 lines 33-37 and column 7 lines 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,391,592. This amendment is further supported by the incorporation by reference of U.S. Patent No. 6,391,592 into the specification at page 17, lines 10-12. No prohibited new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Amendments to the claims

New claims 37-43 are presented above. Claims 24 and 31-33 have been amended to more clearly describe the invention. The amendment to claim 24 is supported by original claims 27 and 29 and Claims 27 and 29 have been canceled herein.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 01-0431.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sandra E. Wells  
Reg. No. 52,349

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Legal Department  
Affymetrix, Inc.  
3380 Central Expressway  
Santa Clara, CA 95051  
Tel: 408/731-5000  
Fax: 408/731-5392